An amount of Rs.388.98 lakh has been sanctioned during the year 2006-07 in the first phase for the Development of Tea Tourism Circuit under scheme for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits in North Bengal. The sanctioned project includes internal pathways, car parking, paved area, landscaping, water supply system, water purification system, waste disposal system, lighting and illumination system, boundary wall and signages etc. at indentified tea gardens.

In the Tenth Plan period an amount of Rs.2790.56 lakh has been sanctioned for development of infrastructure at tourist spots in West Bengal.

Development of Mysore as heritage city

827. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation(KSTDC) is coming out with a Rs. 300 crore proposal of converting Mysore into a heritage city;

(b) whether the project will be taken up with the help of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Revival Mission;

(c) whether the project is limited to corporation limits of Mysore, or are places like Srirangapatna and Nanjungud are included;

(d) whether the Centre has released the special allocation of Rs.50 crore to complete the pending 25 projects; and

(e) whether the KSTDC is planning to outsource the implementation of projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) No such project proposal has been received during the current financial year in the Ministry of Tourism. However, a project for integrated development of Mysore has been sanctioned of central financial assistance of Rs.358.21 lakh during 2005-06.

(d) No specific allocation is made for development of places of tourist interest in the country State-wise. Funds are provided for development and promotion of tourism on the basis of project proposals prioritised in consultation with the State Government/UT Administrations evey year. For the year 2005-06, funds to the tune of Rs. 1863.58 lakh have been

sanctioned for new and ongoing projects to the State of Karnataka.

(e) Execution of the project is the responsibility of the State Government of Karnataka. Ministry of Tourism sanctions projects on the basis of proposals prioritised in consultation with them and selection of implementing agency is the responsibility of the State Government.

Impact of terrorism on tourism

828. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether increasing terrorist activity in the country is having a debilitating impact on the tourism;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether inflow of overseas tourists is dwindling day by day; and

(d) if so, what measuers are contemplated to make tourism industry safer?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Though terrorist activities have, to some extent, affected tourism locally, they have not had an impact on overall tourism in the country.

(c) No, Sir. Details of foreign tourist arrivals to the country during the first six months and the first twenty days of July during the current year, as compared to the corresponding months of the previous year are given below:

Months	2005*	2006*	%change 2006/05
January	386260	444753	+15.14%
February	389081	428325	+10.09%
March	367068	407446	+11.0%
April	260825	325249	+24.7%
May	229172	262860	+14.7%
June	258822	286257	+10.6%
1st-20th July (at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai)	138051	152451	+10.4%

*Provisional